

I CLAIM:

1. A method of sanitizing the udders and teats of dairy cows, comprising applying to said udders and teats an aqueous solution an active ingredient of which is a hop compound in a concentration sufficient to kill substantial amounts of pathogens on said udders and teats but insufficient to cause substantial trauma to said cow.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which said pathogen is a susceptible bacterium.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which said hop compound is lupulone.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which said hop compound is humulone.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which said hop compound is the iso form of humulone.
6. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which said hop compound is selected from the group consisting of hydrogenated iso forms of lupulone and humulone and combinations thereof..
7. A method as claimed in claim 6, in which said hop compound is tetrahydroisohumulone.
8. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which said hop compound is xanthohumol.

9. An aqueous solution or suspension for sanitizing the pathogen-carrying udders and teats of dairy cows, comprising a hop compound in a concentration sufficient to kill substantial amounts of said pathogens but insufficient to cause substantial trauma to said cows.

10. An aqueous solution or suspension as claimed in claim 9, in which said hop compound is selected from the group consisting of lupulone, humulone, xanthohumol, and combinations thereof.

11. An aqueous solution or suspension as claimed in claim 9, in which said hop compound is selected from the group consisting of the iso form of humulone and xanthohumol, and combinations thereof.

12. An aqueous solution or suspension as claimed in claim 9, wherein said pathogens are gram-positive bacteria.

13. An aqueous solution or suspension as claimed in claim 9, said solution or suspension further including emollients.

14. An aqueous solution as claimed in claim 9, said solution further including a surfactant in an amount sufficient to disperse said hop compound in said solution.